wall of the battery receiving chamber, the battery pack having an electrically conductive short circuit element only at the correct side of the battery pack, and being operative when the battery pack is inserted with its correct longitudinal end first and with the electrically conductive short circuit element facing said one wall of the battery receiving chamber to actuate said detection means.

7. In a data collection system according to claim **6**, said control circuitry including battery charging control means controlling supply of battery charging current to rechargeable battery means received by the terminal, said detection means serving to enable said battery charging control means when the presence of rechargeable battery means is detected and serving to disable said battery charging control means when non-rechargeable battery means are received by said terminal for supplying operating power thereto.

8. In a data collection system according to claim **6**, said one wall defining a boundary of the battery receiving chamber receiving said battery means, and said detection means comprising a pair of spaced electrically conductive probe elements disposed upon said one wall of said battery receiving chamber, said pair of probe elements being differentially responsive to insertion of rechargeable battery means and non-rechargeable battery means into said battery receiving chamber by virtue of only said battery pack having said electrically conductive short-circuit element for electrically bridging said probe elements.

9. In a data collection system, a hand-held computerized data collection terminal having user interface means providing for interaction with a user of the terminal during data collection operation, said terminal having computer processor means and control circuitry connected therewith for controlling operation of said terminal, said terminal having battery means for supply of operating power to said computer processor means and said control circuitry, said terminal comprising a terminal housing having a housing end portion with peripheral device electrical connector means therein accessible from the exterior of said housing end portion, an end cap releasably engaged with said housing end portion, and peripheral device circuit means electrically coupled with the peripheral device electrical connector means and protectively enclosed by said end cap,

said peripheral device circuit means having a peripheral device electrical connector fitting accessible at the exterior of the end cap and coupled with said computer processor means via said peripheral device circuit means for providing data communication with a peripheral device.

10. In a data collection system according to claim **9**, said terminal having external conductive metal pads at an end thereof remote from said end cap and coupled with said computer processor means for the transmission of data at a substantially higher rate than the data communication provided via said peripheral device electrical connector fitting.

11. In a data collection system according to claim **10**, communication circuit means coupled between said computer processor means and said external conductive pads and providing for two-way transmission at a rate of about 500,000 bits per second.

12. In a data collection system according to claim **10**, circuit means coupled between said computer processor means and said peripheral device electrical connector fitting and providing for data communication at a rate of not more than about 19,200 bits per second.

13. In a data collection system, a hand-held computerized data collection terminal having user interface means providing for interaction with a user of the terminal during data collection operation, said terminal having computer processor means and control circuitry connected therewith for controlling operation of said terminal, said terminal having battery means for supply of operating power to said computer processor means and said control circuitry, said terminal comprising a terminal housing having a housing end portion with peripheral device electrical connector means therein accessible from the exterior of said housing end portion, an end cap releasably engaged with said housing end portion, and peripheral device circuit means electrically coupled with the peripheral device electrical connector means and protectively enclosed by said end cap,

said peripheral device circuit means comprising a peripheral device electrical connector fitting at the exterior of the end cap, said terminal housing containing a peripheral device circuit carrying member mounting said peripheral device electrical connector means for automatic engagement with the peripheral device circuit means as the end cap is applied to said housing end portion.

14. In a data collection system, a hand-held computerized data collection terminal having user interface means providing for interaction with a user of the terminal during data collection operation, said terminal having computer processor means and control circuitry connected therewith for controlling operation of said terminal, said terminal having battery means for supply of operating power to said computer processor means and said control circuitry, said terminal comprising a terminal housing having a housing end portion with peripheral device electrical connector means therein accessible from the exterior of said housing end portion, an end cap releasably engaged with said housing end portion, and peripheral device circuit means electrically coupled with the peripheral device electrical connector means and protectively enclosed by said end cap,

said peripheral device circuit means comprising a memory card removably inserted into the peripheral device electrical connector means, and removable from the housing end portion upon disengagement of the end cap from said housing end portion.

15. In a data collection system according to claim **14**, said terminal housing containing a memory card controller board with said peripheral device electrical connector means thereon and arranged to automatically electrically connect with an edge of the memory card as the memory card is inserted into the housing end portion with the end cap disengaged therefrom.

16. In a data collection system, a hand-held computerized data collection terminal having user interface means providing for interaction with a user of the terminal during data collection operation, said terminal having computer processor means and control circuitry connected therewith for controlling operation of said terminal, said terminal having battery means for supply of operating power to said computer processor means and said control circuitry, said terminal comprising a terminal housing having a housing end portion with peripheral device electrical connector means therein accessible from the exterior of said housing end portion, an end cap releasably engaged with said housing end portion, and peripheral device circuit means electrically coupled with the peripheral device electrical connector means and protectively enclosed by said end cap,

said housing end portion having auxiliary battery means for supplying backup operating Vower to the terminal along an electric current flow path and an insulating strip of electrical insulating material extending into said